(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed Bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to amend Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to enhance the existing punishment up to a maximum of eight years and fine which would not be less than Rs. 10,000 and which may extend up to Rs. 50,000 for serious nature of offences.

(c) The Bill has already been introduced in Rajya Sabha.

Border fencing

4256. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to undertake border fencing in Kutch area bordering Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof with completion schedules;

(c) has the border fencing work in Jammu and Kashmir undertaken;

(d) the areas covered so far and remains to be covered; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the border fencing and the likely date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to carry out fencing works in a length of 310 Kms. in the area bordering Pakistan in Gujarat Sector including the Kutch area.

(b) This is a composite project involving construction of road on raised embankment, construction of border outposts, providing barbed wire fence, etc. At present 62 Kms. of road and embankment have been completed while barbed wire fence has been provided in 16 Kms. stretch. The entire work is targeted to be completed by March, 2005.

(c) to (e) The Government has also decided to carry out fencing works in 180 kms. length on the International Border in Jammu Sector. So far fencing work has been completed in 55 kms. length. Protective bunds are being raised to protect the Border Security Force personnel as well as civil labour from direct observation and firing from across the

border so that fencing work is carried out as per schedule. The entire work is targeted to be completed by March, 2006.

Issuance of I-Cards to Indian citizens

†4257. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Bhartiya hokar bhi Bharat ke nahin yahan base log", appeared in the media;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) the reasons for not issuing so far identity cards of Indian citizenship to the residents of 130 small plots of land close to Indo-Bangla Border; and

(d) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 111 Enclaves belonging to India in Bangladesh and 51 Enclaves belonging to Bangladesh in India. Under the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974, India and Bangladesh are to exchange Enclaves in each others territory. The Government is holding discussions with the Government of Bangladesh with regard to modalities involved in undertaking such an exchange.

(c) and (d) At present, only a Pilot Project on the issue of Multipurpose National Identity Cards (MNIC) is being undertaken by the Government in a few selected sub-districts of various districts of 13 States and Union Territories.

Infiltration of terrorists in J&K

4258. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government are taking to tackle the inflow of terrorists from across the border; and

(b) what are Government's plans to change the general perception of Kashmir not being safe for either investment or travel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) In addition to diplomatic initiatives

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.